

PRAYER AND BLESSING

It is not my purpose to talk long this morning. I greet you and welcome you on behalf of the Church and say to you, it is a joy to look into your faces and be with you to worship and wait upon the Lord, with the assurance that he will hear and answer the prayers that have already been offered and that will continue to be offered, not only by those who speak audibly but by those who come here with a prayer in their hearts. I pray that the Spirit of the Lord may be in our homes and abiding places, that there may go out from this great conference influences that shall enrich the lives of those present and absent, that day by day we may let our light so shine that others seeing our good works will be constrained to glorify the name of our Heavenly Father.

I pray that his Spirit may be here in rich abundance this day that we many partake of its influence and be instructed and informed under that power that will enrich our lives and give us a feeling of gratitude that we are able to be here this morning, and that the Lord may add his blessing and his peace to be upon you and our Father's sons and daughters everywhere.

How I pray in my soul this morning in your hearing that the President of the United States and those who are working with him may live in such a way that the power of the Lord will be with them, that they may not be misled but that they may so adjust affairs at the seat of government that the people of this nation will be blessed because of their desire to honor God and keep his commandments, and that these and all other blessings may be ours.

I am thinking this morning of our poor people in the various war-torn countries. We hear almost daily from some source from people who have not enough food to nourish their bodies as they should be nourished, people who are wearing the same clothing they wore when the war broke out and have no way of replacing it, people whose homes have been blown to bits by bombs and destroyed by the great war. Those people this morning, many of them, knowing where we are, are praying that they too may be inspired. We are blessed, brethren and sisters, and I pray that we may appreciate our blessings and live to be worthy of them, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President George Albert Smith:

It has been customary to read the financial statement here in this meeting, and President J. Rueben Clark, Jr. will now read that statement to you and make such explanation as he may see fit.

President J. Reuben Clark Jr.:

My brothers and sisters: Figures are never very interesting, though I am bound to say they are more interesting when they indi-

cate prosperity, the use of funds in a proper way, for proper purposes, than they are at other times. I might say to begin with that so far as the expenditure of the tithing is concerned, this has been under a budget which is set up and passed upon by a Committee on the Disposition of Tithes consisting of the First Presidency, the Quorum of the Twelve, and the Presiding Bishopric. This is in accordance with the revelations of the Lord, as you will find it in Section 120 which was given at Farr West on July 8, 1838.

After that Committee has passed a budget, then the expenditure under the budget is directed and approved by a Committee on Expenditures made up of the First Presidency, a committee from the Twelve, and the Presiding Bishopric. They pass upon every cent that is covered by the budget. The budget also covers the expenditure of some funds, as you will see, which do not come from the tithes but come from other resources. All of our accounts are audited, and to the glory of this people may it be said that the misappropriation of funds is microscopic in amount and effects. I should suppose, one-tenth perhaps of 1%, perhaps not so much as that, of all the peoples who handle the funds in this Church.

CHURCH DISBURSEMENTS, 1945

Part 1—CHURCH BUDGET CASH EXPENDITURES FROM GENERAL CHURCH FUNDS, BOTH TITHING AND NON-TITHING INCOMES:

Total Cash Budget Appropriations for 1945	\$5,492,552.00
Total Cash Budget Expenditure for 1945	5,083,109.00

Excess of Appropriations over Expenditures for 1945 \$ 409,443.00

NON-TITHING BUDGET EXPENDITURES

	Budget Appropriation for 1945	Budget Expenditures for 1945	1945 Expenditures Under or in excess of Appropriation
<i>Office of the Corporation of the President:</i> Including salaries of 52 Employees; expenses of offices; equipment; maintenance of the Administration Building; and the living allowances and traveling expenses of the General Authorities, all of which are covered by non-tithing income	\$ 299,550.00	\$ 293,602.00	\$ 5,948.00
<i>Office of the Corporation of the Presiding Bishop:</i> Including the salaries of 235 employees; office expenses and equipment; expenses of the Aaronic Priesthood program; traveling expenses of the Presiding Bishopric; taxes, special printing; the maintenance of the Purchasing Department and the Motor Avenue supply storehouse, all of which are covered by non-tithing income	177,300.00	171,826.00	5,474.00
Total Non-tithing Budget Expenditures \$	476,850.00	\$ 465,428.00	\$ 11,422.00

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Tithing Budget Expenditures, Temples:

For the operating expenses, including the salaries of 191 employees, and building maintenance, repairs, and renovation of the Alberta, Arizona, Hawaiian, Idaho Falls, Logan, Manti, St. George, and Salt Lake Temples

Budget Ap-
propriation
for 1945Budget Ex-
penditures
for 19451945 Expend-
itures Under
or in excess of
Appropriation

238,650.00 327,161.00 88,511.00

Missions and Missionary Work:

For the maintenance and operation of missions in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Hawaiian Islands, and South America; living and traveling expenses of the mission presidents; return fares of missionaries; free literature; service men's welfare; the erection, purchase, remodeling, maintenance and renting of buildings; the expenses of the Bureaus of Information in Salt Lake City, Washington, D. C., Carthage Jail (Illinois), Cumorah (Palmyra) and Joseph Smith Farm (South Royalton, Vermont), and the Mission Home in Salt Lake City

531,640.00 721,106.00 189,466.00

Stake and Ward Expenses:

Allowances to 153 stakes and 1295 wards and independent branches, including janitorial service, heat, light and water costs of 1470 stake, ward and branch buildings; expenses and mileage allowances to stake presidents and bishops; furnishings for stake and ward offices; stake and ward taxes; and stake and ward printing

1,148,500.00 1,167,749.00 19,249.00

Church Welfare:

For the purchase of canning and other equipment and commodity purchases; for the operating expenses of the General Committee storehouses, the Deseret Industries, and the Deseret Clothing Factory; for land and building purchases, and General Committee administrative expenses

379,500.00 291,696.00 87,804.00

Church Schools:

For the operating expenses of the Brigham Young University, Ricks College, L. D. S. Business College, Juarez Academy, 12 institutes and 99 seminaries; for the operating expenses of the Department of Education, including the salaries of 327 teachers and 7 administrative officers and office employees; and for maintenance, repairs, and improvements to buildings

943,897.00 954,814.00 10,917.00

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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	Budget Ap- propriation for 1945	Budget Ex- penditures for 1945	1945 Expend- itures Under or in excess of Appropriation
<i>Educational Institutions (other than Church Schools, Institutes and Sem- inaries):</i>			
Consisting of the McCune School of Music and Art, Lund Home for Boys, Deseret Gymnasium, and the Society for the Aid of the Sightless	73,248.00	15,032.00	58,216.00
<i>Building Operations:</i>			
For the Maintenance of the buildings and grounds, Temple Block; repairs to Tabernacle organ; for the maintenance of other Church properties situated im- mediately adjacent to the Temple Block; for the erection and repairing of ward buildings; and \$46,541.59 for the construction of hospital buildings....	1,187,200.00	750,045.00	437,155.00
<i>Historic Monuments and Properties:</i>			
For the repair and maintenance of prop- erties at Palmyra, New York, South Royalton, Vermont; Carthage Jail; and memorial cemeteries	23,614.00	13,833.00	9,781.00
<i>Indian Projects:</i>			
In the Papago Ward	10,000.00	10,314.00	314.00
<i>Church Committee on Radio and Pub- licity:</i>			
For publicity and mission literature	24,366.00	11,038.00	13,328.00
<i>Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Index Bureau:</i>			
For the maintenance of the Church Genealogical Library, Record Archives, Temple Index Bureau and allied de- partments, and for the recording, in- dexing, photographing and filing of genealogical and temple ordinance data, including the names of 398,837 persons forwarded to the 8 temples for bap- tisms and endowments; also for the sal- aries of 130 full-time employees	211,887.00	210,588.00	1,299.00
<i>Other Expenses:</i>			
Consisting of contributing to civic or- ganizations, such as the Red Cross, Community Chest, etc.; salaries of Tabernacle Choir conductors and or- ganists; taxes; legal expenses; welfare assistance by the general Church Of- fice; public liability and other insur- ance, etc.	243,200.00	144,305.00	98,895.00
Total Tithing Budget and Expenditures \$	5,015,702.00	\$4,617,681.00	\$ 398,021.00
Total Budget and Expenditures	\$ 5,492,552.00	\$5,083,109.00	\$ 409,443.00

Part II.—NON-BUDGET AND NON-TITHING EXPENDITURES FROM CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH FOR THE YEAR 1945

The expenditures budgeted from general Church funds and paid principally from the tithes are detailed above. The following expenditures were made from further contributions by members of the Church:

Paid for stake and ward building purposes	\$ 460,749.00
Expended for stake, ward and mission maintenance purposes, expenses of auxiliary organizations, and for recreation	1,794,002.00
Expended from ward and mission fast offerings	637,558.00
Expended from welfare contributions	303,500.00
Assistance rendered missionaries	31,328.00
Expended from General Board dues, children's contributions to the Primary Hospital and donations to temples. (Y. M. M. I. A. and Y. W. M. I. A. general fund is for 19 months, June 1, 1944, to December 31, 1945. On January 1, 1945, these Boards made the calendar year their fiscal year.)	180,909.00
Expended by Church schools, in addition to amount listed under budget expenditures, from funds derived from tuitions and other sources	265,593.00
Total non-budget cash expenditures, 1945 from contributions other than tithing, donated by the Church Membership	\$ 3,673,639.00
Expended by the hospitals for the care of the sick in addition to the amount paid from the tithes and included in Part I.....	14,452.00
Cash value of commodities distributed from bishop's storehouses; European packages forwarded to Europe; and bulk shipments of merchandise to Europe	625,835.00
Or a total of	640,287.00
Total non-tithing and non-budget expenditures (not including the Offices of the Corporation of the President and of the Presiding Bishopric)	4,313,926.00
Total budget cash expenditures by General Church offices brought forward from above	5,083,109.00
Total cash expenditures, budget and non-budget of the Church for 1945	\$ 9,397,035.00

Part III—THE CHURCH WELFARE PROGRAM

Fast Offering Data:

Number of Church members who paid voluntary fast offerings and welfare contributions

In the wards	140,962
In the missions	25,883
Total	166,845
Per cent of Church membership who paid fast offerings	20.3%
Average fast offerings per capita in wards	86c
Average fast offering per capita in missions (based on membership of missions reporting)	39c
Average fast offerings per capita, wards and missions	79c
Amount of voluntary fast offerings and welfare contributions:	
In the wards:	
Fast offerings	\$ 593,504.00
Welfare contributions	328,951.00

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In the Missions:

Fast offerings 45,483.00

Total fast offerings and welfare contributions \$ 967,938.00

Welfare Program Cash Expenditures:

Expended from ward and mission fast offerings and welfare contributions for the care of the needy, consisting of food, clothing, rents, light, heat, hospitalization, burials, etc., and for the operation of bishops' and regional storehouses and the purchase of commodities for storehouses 941,058.00

Disbursed by the General Welfare Committee for direct assistance and welfare purposes; for the overhead expenses of the General Committee; and for shipments of food and supplies to European missions 129,636.00

Disbursed by the Corporation of the President for direct assistance; for contributions to civic, denominational and school projects; and for donations to charitable institutions, such as the American Red Cross, War and Community Chests, health foundations and youth organizations 96,093.00

Expended by the hospitals for the care of the sick 14,452.00

Total Relief Cash Expenditures for the year, all included in above grand total of budget and non-budget cash expenditures.. \$ 1,181,239.00

This is an increase over the year 1944 of \$ 171,841.00

In addition to the cash expenditure of \$1,181,239.00 for welfare purposes, the General Church Welfare Committee makes the following further financial report, with a statement indicating the production and distribution of commodities for bishops' storehouses and inventory of commodities December 31, 1945:

Summary of the Annual Report of the Church Welfare Plan:

December 31, 1945

FINANCIAL REPORT

Present Net Cash Value:

Current Assets (Net) \$ 1,118,522.03

Inventories (Principally Commodities) 623,920.55

Fixed Assets (Land, Building, etc.) 1,674,410.46

TOTAL \$ 3,416,853.04

Fixed Assets Include:

Deseret Industries, Deseret Mills and Elevators, Deseret Clothing Factory, Emery Coal Mine.

One hundred and three bishops' storehouses having a total floor area of 425,738 square feet. This is eleven times the area covered by the Tabernacle; and about the same as the area of the Temple Block. There are sixty-seven canneries included in the bishop's storehouses.

Farms, ranches, dairies, and other regional and stake properties, made up of 6,287 acres of land, together with buildings, improvements, equipment and livestock.

The Fixed Assets were acquired with:

\$ 594,036.99 Cash from General Church funds, through the General Committee.

796,798.00 Cash from wards, stakes, regions and Priesthood quorums.

283,575.00 Donations, labor and property.

\$ 1,674,410.46

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The Fixed Assets consist of:

\$ 499,882.00	Land
969,064.00	Buildings
135,103.46	Equipment
39,298.00	Furniture and Fixtures
31,063.00	Livestock

\$ 1,674,410.46 This total is not included in the grand totals covering expenditures, it being a capital investment statement.

Production, Distribution, Inventory, and Budget Assignment of Commodities for Bishops' Storehouses

Items	Unit	1945 Production	1945 Purchases	1945 Distribution Inventory	Dec. 31, 1945
Canned Produce (Milk, Vegetables, Fruits, Jams and Spreads)	quarts	557,904	984	614,831	1,432,244
Animal Products (Butter, Eggs, and Meat)	pounds	334,082	76,089	448,369	52,120
Vegetables, Fruits and Sugar (Not canned)	pounds	1,570,000	119,550	1,327,000	425,484
Grains and Grain Products ..	pounds	2,420,500	242,914	2,684,800	2,774,700
Other Food (51 Different Items)	pounds	15,423	107,984	129,773	50,430
Various Drugs and Household Supplies and Soaps ..	items	61,101	97,233	161,716	95,777
Cotton	500 lb. bales	18	25	31
Fuel (Mostly Coal)	tons	204	439	1,126	618
Clothing and Dry Goods (329 Different Items)	articles	51,423	50,907	110,665	100,171
Furniture	articles	21	502	1,014	504

NOTE: This December 31, 1945, inventory is not included in the grand totals of expenditures already given; the amounts distributed during the year are included.

Activities of the Program during 1945. Canning and Processing for Storehouse Program:

Vegetables, Fruits, Jams and Spreads	375,822 quarts (494,457 cans)
Meat, Fish, and Fowl	20,286 pounds (21,076 cans)
Milk, canned (each can equivalent to one quart of fresh milk)	57,120 cans
Miscellaneous Food (Spices, Flavoring, etc.)	10,439 pounds
Flour, Cereals and Livestock Feeds	1,630,600 pounds

NOTE: Of these quantities, there remained on hand December 31, 1945, the inventory of that date given above; the balance was distributed.

Group Canning:

The following canning was done at Welfare canneries for their own use by 497 groups, consisting of 35,556 people:

Fruits and Vegetables	377,516 quarts (565,309 cans)
Meat and Fish	17,294 pounds (20,315 cans)
	(585,624 cans)

NOTE: No account of this production is taken in any of the figures and totals given above.

At this point it might be stated that as careful an estimate as can be made indicates that the members of the Church in all parts of the country, covering 122,886 families, processed in their homes last year a minimum of 40,399,794 quarts of fruits and vegetables and 4,039,977 cans of meats and vegetables—this is in addition to the group canning done in our Welfare canneries in the amounts

just given (585,624 cans). The public stock piles were thus relieved of a great load. We urge our people everywhere to produce and process the maximum amounts possible during this canning season, both to provide for themselves as fully as may be, so relieving the public stock piles by just that much so that more can be sent to the suffering millions in Europe, and next so that they may have enough to share some of their own stocks with their brothers and sisters in Europe and elsewhere who may be in want.

Field Activities:

Field activities carried on in the production of the 1945 Welfare Budget include 682 crop projects, cultivating of 2,471 acres of land; 206 livestock projections, which produced 474 head of livestock, 8,735 chickens, 687 rabbits, and 91 stands of bees.

In addition to the work done on these projects, 12,168 man days of donated work were done in the storehouses and processing plants.

For purposes other than the production of the budget for the bishops' storehouse program, there were 113 crop projects, 13 livestock projects, and 90 manufacturing projects operated during 1945. These projects utilized 632 acres of land and produced 24 head of livestock.

Assistance Rendered:

There have been from 17,913 to 55,460 persons assisted through the bishops' storehouse program each year since 1938. In 1945 there were 30,937 persons so assisted.

During this period more than 952 families have been helped to become self-supporting; 7,059 persons have been assisted in other ways; and 1,629 construction projects have been completed in addition to the construction for the bishops' storehouse program.

Welfare Meetings Being Held:

Of the 145 stakes reporting, 111 hold Stake Welfare Committee meetings monthly or oftener; 23 hold them less frequently; and 11 are not holding any meetings. Of the 1,219 wards reported, 135 hold weekly Ward Welfare Committee meetings; 505 hold them less frequently; and 579 are not holding any meetings.

Persons Taken from Government Relief Rolls:

During 1943, 215 persons; during 1944, 492 persons; and during 1945, 633 persons (total 1,340 persons) have been removed from government relief rolls. Of this number 525 have been rehabilitated and are receiving no aid from the Church; 537 are receiving part of their support from the Church; and 278 are receiving all their needs from the Church.

Clothing Collected and Food and Clothing Shipped to Saints in European Missions:

From October 29, 1945, to March 20, 1946, 339,940 pounds of good used clothing were collected, sorted and boxed for shipment to Saints in European missions. In this same time 14,353 parcel post packages of clothing and bedding (143,530 pounds) were mailed for distribution to 6,872 Saints residing in the Belgian, Czechoslovakian, Danish, French, Netherlands, Norwegian and Swedish (Finnish section) Missions. This amounts to 21 pounds per person.

Between February 15 and March 20, 1946, 5 freight carloads of food and 3 of clothing have been shipped to the Netherlands and Norwegian Missions. The 5 cars of food contain, 144,696 cans of fruits and vegetables, 10,750 pounds of cracked wheat, and 12,816 pounds of beans. The value of the contents of the 8 cars is \$83,225.00. The cost of all parcel post and bulk shipments (including cost of packing boxes) is \$33,087.00.

Emergency Activity:

During the year the Welfare Program successfully met one major individual problem, involving a catastrophe similar to the Arizona problem in 1942 when the Gila River had a great flood. On August 19, 1945, in the late evening a rain fall of cloudburst proportions fell on the foothills that lie to the northeast of Salt

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Lake City. A destructive flood resulted that ran through the Salt Lake Cemetery and then southward where it filled basements, covered lawns, destroyed gardens, and left a barren silt covering everything over which the water flowed. The area affected was in Emigration Stake. Four wards were involved. The Stake and Ward Welfare Committees assumed responsibility for the work of cleaning up the area. The homes of members and non-members were cared for. The Welfare organizations of neighboring stakes came to help. One hundred fifty yards and sixty basements were involved, in addition to street parkings and alleys. Before the work was finally completed several furnaces and water heating units were dismantled, cleaned, and rebuilt. The Salt Lake City Commissioners undertook the removal of the debris after it had been removed from the homes and gardens. Food, clothing, and furniture were provided where needed. Cash funds required were secured from Ward and Stake Fast and Welfare offerings. Assistance was extended to 38 non-members. The work group on the first evening had 100 men; one work group on one evening had 900 men; neighboring stakes sent 1,250 men, who furnished 2,500 hours of work. Three thousand more men than were needed volunteered to help. All told 8,000 man-hours were used in the project. The Relief Society of the stake and wards provided refreshments for the workers.

We feel this, like the Arizona flood of 1942, is a demonstration of what the Welfare Program can do in cases of dire emergency.

President George Albert Smith:

We have just heard the report of President Clark and if you have been able to absorb it, I think you will take a great deal of information home with you.

I think it would be interesting to recapitulate far enough to say that we have recently shipped a total of $8\frac{1}{2}$ cars of bedding and clothing from the Welfare Organization and $9\frac{1}{2}$ cars of food, including meat, and other carloads are going forward from day to day. That was all ready to go when the time came for it to be used, because the Latter-day Saints had been working to preserve the food and the bedding and clothing for those who were about to be in need, and they certainly have been in need now.

The singing Mothers and the congregation sang the hymn, "How Firm a Foundation," Hymn Book page 260, L. D. S. Hymns No. 329)

President George Albert Smith:

Brother Orval W. Adams, one of the Church Auditing Committee will now make the report for that group.

CHURCH AUDITORS REPORT

April 2, 1946

President George Albert Smith and Counselors
Salt Lake City

Dear Brethren:

Your committee reviewed the Annual Financial Report of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the year

ending December 31, 1945. The report shows the Church to be in strong financial position and free from debt.

Respectfully submitted

Orval W. Adams
Alber E. Bowen
George A. Spencer
Harold H. Bennett

Church Auditing Committee

President George Albert Smith:

You have just heard the report of the Church Auditing Committee informing you that the Church is out of debt.

We will now hear the Clerk of the Conference, Brother Joseph Anderson, read the statistical report.

(Statistical Report Read by Joseph Anderson)

CHANGES IN CHURCH OFFICERS, STAKE, WARD AND BRANCH ORGANIZATIONS SINCE LAST OCTOBER CONFERENCE—1945

New Mission Presidents:

Elder Ezra T. Benson, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, appointed President of the European Missions succeeding Elder Thomas E. McKay, who has been released as acting President of the European Missions.

Selvoy J. Boyer, appointed President of the British Mission.

Oscar W. McConkie, appointed President of the California Mission.

Melvin A. Weenig, appointed President of the Central Pacific Mission.

Wallace Toronto, appointed President of the Czechoslovakian Mission.

James L. Barker, appointed President of the French Mission.

Cornelius Zappey, appointed President of the Netherlands Mission.

A. Richard Peterson, appointed President of the Norwegian Mission.

Eben R. T. Blomquist, appointed President of the Swedish Mission.

Francis A. Child, appointed President of Western States Mission.

Scott Taggart, appointed President of the Swiss Mission.

Glenn G. Smith, appointed President of the Texas-Louisiana Mission.

Evon W. Huntsman, appointed President of the Tongan Mission.

Brighton Ward, Pioneer Stake, disorganized and made part of new Edison Ward.

Van Port Branch, Portland Stake, disorganized and made part of University Ward.

LaSal Branch, San Juan Stake, disorganized and made a branch dependent upon the Monticello Ward.

Shelton Branch, Seattle Stake, disorganized and made part of Olympia Ward.

Ward Name Changed:

Cove Ward, Benson Stake, formerly the Coveville Ward.

Ward Transferred:

Windsor Ward, Sharon Stake, formerly of the Timpanagos Stake.

General Authorities Who Have Passed Away:

Elder Nicholas G. Smith, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles, died October 27, 1945; was an assistant since April 6, 1941.

Others:

Joseph J. Canon, 1st Assistant Supt. in the Y.M.M.I.A., died October 28, 1945.

Burton K. Farnsworth, 2nd Assistant Supt. in the Y.M.M.I.A., died October 20, 1945.

James H. Moyle, formerly president of the Eastern States Mission, died Feb. 19, 1946.

Louise Y. Robison, formerly general president of the Relief Society, died March 30, 1946.

STATISTICAL REPORT

Number of Stakes of Zion	155
Number of Wards	1,174
Number of Independent Branches	121
Total Wards and Independent Branches	1,295
Number of Missions	38

Church Membership

Stakes	811,045
Missions	168,409

Total	979,454
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Church Growth

Children blessed in stakes and missions	24,779
Children baptized in stakes and missions	16,106
Converts baptized in stakes and missions	4,957

Social Statistics

Birth rate per thousand	32.1
Marriage rate per thousand	13.7
Death rate per thousand	6.4
Service men from the stakes reported killed and missing in action in 1945	1,217

Missionaries

Number of missionaries in the missions of the Church	592
Number engaged in missionary work in the stakes	2,758
Total missionaries	3,350
Number of missionaries who received training in the Mission Home during 1945	362

ELDER JOHN A. WIDTSOE

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

My brethren and sisters: So far, this has been a very impressive session of the conference. We have heard the voice of the prophet of God. It is a pity for any people not to have a prophet to lead them. For our possession of prophet-leadership we are deeply grateful. We must have felt also very grateful as we heard the statistics read concerning the progress of the Church.

EVENTS OF A CENTURY AGO

My mind has been turned in comparison during this hour from the Church of today to the Church of yesterday. One hundred years ago the evacuation of Nauvoo began. John R. Young writes in his autobiography that one morning in February 1846—he was then about nine years of age—he awoke, dressed, and went down to the yard; there he saw people, some of his own and some strangers, loading the household furniture into two big wagons. He went to his mother and said: "Mother, what does all this mean?" She gathered him into her arms and said, "Son, we are going to leave our home, and we shall never see it again."

As I recall the date, it was about February 4 when the first two families crossed the Mississippi River among the ice floes. One of those families—unless I am very much mistaken—was headed by the great-grandfather of the present President of the Church, John Smith, famous in Church history. A little later, amidst a bitterly cold season, the water froze over the Mississippi; and the people were able then to take their wagons, their horses, and themselves on foot, across the ice on the way to the West. They began what in the history of the world is the greatest adventure of the kind ever known. Between fifteen and twenty thousand persons were moved bodily from a well-established city, in orderly fashion westward to an unknown destina-